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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212938

EXD15

E.O. 12065: GDS A/11/87 (EAGLEBURGER, LAWRENCE S.)

TAGS: PPDC, SCUL, DL

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH POLISH PRIMATE

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE DELIVERY OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SEE THE PRIMATE IN PERSON THIS WEEK. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SEE THE PRIMATE, YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH SOME OTHER CHURCH OFFICIAL WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO PASS ON TO THE PRIMATE THE FOLLOWING POINTS. IT WOULD SEEM ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE PRIMATE TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THESE VIEWS BEFORE HIS APPEARANCE AUGUST 15 AT CZESTOCHOWA.

3. POINTS TO BE MADE:

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND AMERICAN PRIVATE BODIES, HAVE BEEN GENEROUS IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO POLAND DESPITE OUR OWN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND BUDGETARY STRINGENCY. WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR SYMPATHETIC APPROACH

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BUT IN ORDER TO DO SO IT IS VITALLY NECESSARY THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE BE CONVINCED THAT OTHERS TOO ARE DOING THEIR FULL SHARE.

-- IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE FRANKLY FELT THAT SOME OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN MAJOR FINANCIAL AND TRADING PARTNERS OF POLAND, AND THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL, HAVE NOT BEEN DOING ALL THEY SHOULD TO HELP POLAND THROUGH AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TIME. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS STRONGLY IN THE INTEREST OF ALL COUNTRIES IN EUROPE, WEST AND EAST, TO HELP ENSURE THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF POLAND AND AVOID A CRISIS WHICH COULD ENDANGER EUROPEAN SECURITY.

-- BUT THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OBVIOUSLY LIES WITH THE POLES THEMSELVES. THE POLISH PEOPLE HAVE WON ENORMOUS RESPECT IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE FOR THE REMARKABLE CHANGES WHICH THEY HAVE BROUGHT PEACEFULLY IN THEIR SOCIETY OVER THE PAST YEAR. WE CAN FULLY APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN DRAFTING REFORM PROGRAMS FOR A COUNTRY OF THIS SIZE AND COMPLEXITY, IN SECURING THEIR POPULAR ACCEPTANCE, AND IN ENSURING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. AND NO ONE CAN FORGET THE PAST OCCASIONS IN POLAND WHEN ARBITRARY DECISIONS BY OFFICIALS LED TO UPHEAVAL AND BLOODSHED. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THOSE IN A POSITION TO SPEAK TO THE POLISH PEOPLE, INCLUDING OF COURSE THE CHURCH HIERARCHY, TO MAKE IT UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR THAT A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR POLAND WILL REQUIRE NOT ONLY LIBERALIZATION AND REFORM BUT EXTREMELY HARD WORK BY ITS PEOPLE. AUSTERITY MAY BE PAINFUL, BUT IT MUST BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REFORM PROCESS.

-- OUR OWN VIEW OF POLAND'S FUTURE IS OPTIMISTIC. POLAND HAS NATURAL RESOURCES, HUMAN RESOURCES, AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE IT TO TAKE A LEADING PLACE AMONG DEVELOPED NATIONS. THIS WILL TAKE SOME YEARS; THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO BEGIN NOW THE CONCRETE STEPS NECESSARY.

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-- WE CAN APPRECIATE THE DELICATE POSITION OF THE CHURCH, AND WE REALIZE THAT THE POLISH PEOPLE WILL NOT NECESSARILY ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CHURCH'S LEAD ON

ECONOMIC MATTERS. HOWEVER, THE CHURCH AND THE PRIMATE MAY BE ABLE TO PLAY THE KEY ROLE IN LEADING THE COUNTRY FORWARD. WE WOULD LIKE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO SUPPORT SUCH A ROLE UNOBTUSIVELY, AND WE WOULD HOPE TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PRIMATE.

4. FOR VATICAN OFFICE: YOU MAY BRIEF APPROPRIATE VATICAN OFFICIAL ON ABOVE. HAIG

END OF MESSAGE

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